

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-36. (cancelled)

37. (original) A method for forming a diagonal bore in a torque-transmitting tool comprising a longitudinal axis and first and second surfaces on different sides of the longitudinal axis, said method comprising:

(a) forming a first part of a first, larger bore in the tool from the first surface along a first drilling axis, said first drilling axis intersecting the first surface at a first oblique angle;

(b) forming a first part of a second, smaller bore in the tool from the first surface along the first drilling axis;

(c) forming a second part of the first, larger bore in the tool from the first surface along the first drilling axis; and

(d) forming a second part of the second, smaller bore in the tool from the first surface along the first drilling axis, said second part of the second, smaller bore passing through the second surface at a second oblique angle.

38. (original) The method of Claim 37 wherein different drills are used in (a) and (c) and different drills are used in (b) and (d).

39. (original) The method of Claim 37 wherein (a) is performed before (c), wherein (b) is performed before (d), and wherein (a) is performed before (d).

40. (new) A method for forming a diagonal bore in a torque-transmitting tool comprising a longitudinal axis and first and second surfaces on different sides of the longitudinal axis, said method comprising:

(a) drilling a first bore in the tool from the first surface along a first drilling axis, said first drilling axis intersecting the first surface at a first oblique angle; and

(b) drilling a second bore in the tool from the second surface along a second drilling axis, said second drilling axis intersecting the second surface at a second oblique angle, said first and second drilling axes oriented such that the first and second bores meet in the tool;

wherein drilling operations of (a) and (b) overlap in time.

41. (new) A system for machining a diagonal bore in a drive stud of a torque-transmitting tool, said system comprising:

a tool comprising a longitudinal axis, first and second surfaces on different sides of the longitudinal axis, a shank, and a shoulder between the shank and at least one surface of the drive stud;

a fixture configured to hold the tool in a selected position;

a first drill oriented with respect to the fixture when in an operative position to drill a first bore in the tool from the first surface along a first drilling axis, said first drilling axis intersecting the first surface at a first oblique angle; and

a second drill oriented with respect to the fixture when in an operative position to drill a second bore in the tool from the second surface along a second drilling axis, said second drilling axis intersecting the second surface at a second oblique angle, said first and second drilling axes oriented such that the first and second bores meet in the tool;

wherein the fixture is configured to engage the drive stud and to use the shoulder to register the tool with respect to the fixture and the drills.

42. (new) A system for machining a diagonal bore in a drive stud of a torque-transmitting tool, said system comprising:

a tool comprising a longitudinal axis and first and second surfaces on different sides of the longitudinal axis;

a fixture configured to hold the tool in a selected position;

a first drill oriented with respect to the fixture when in an operative position to drill a first bore in the tool from the first surface along a first drilling axis, said first drilling axis intersecting the first surface at a first oblique angle; and

a second drill oriented with respect to the fixture when in an operative position to drill a second bore in the tool from the second surface along a second drilling axis, said second drilling axis intersecting the second surface at a second oblique angle, said first and second drilling axes oriented such that the first and second bores meet in the tool;

wherein the fixture comprises a first drill bushing positioned closely adjacent the first surface and aligned with the first drilling axis to support the first drill, and wherein the first drill bushing comprises an oblique end substantially aligned with the first surface.

43. (new) A system for machining a diagonal bore in a drive stud of a torque-transmitting tool, said system comprising:

a tool comprising a longitudinal axis and first and second surfaces on different sides of the longitudinal axis;

a fixture configured to hold the tool in a selected position;

a first drill oriented with respect to the fixture when in an operative position to drill a first bore in the tool from the first surface along a first drilling axis, said first drilling axis intersecting the first surface at a first oblique angle; and

a second drill oriented with respect to the fixture when in an operative position to drill a second bore in the tool from the second surface along a second drilling axis, said second drilling axis intersecting the second surface at a second oblique angle, said first and second drilling axes oriented such that the first and second bores meet in the tool;

wherein the fixture comprises a first drill bushing positioned closely adjacent the first surface and aligned with the first drilling axis to support the first drill, and a second drill bushing positioned closely adjacent the second surface and aligned with the second drilling axis to support the second drill; and

wherein the second drill bushing comprises an oblique end substantially aligned with the second surface.

44. (new) A method for forming a diagonal bore in a torque-transmitting tool comprising a longitudinal axis and first and second surfaces on different sides of the longitudinal axis, said method comprising:

(a) drilling a first bore in the tool from the first surface along a first drilling axis, said first drilling axis intersecting the first surface at a first oblique angle; and

(b) drilling a second, smaller bore in the tool from the first surface along the first drilling axis, said second bore forming with the first bore a step within the tool, said second bore passing through the second surface at a second oblique angle; wherein (a) comprises drilling the first bore in two drilling operations.

45. (new) The method of Claim 44 wherein (a) comprises drilling the first bore with two separate drills in said two drilling operations.

46. (new) The method of Claim 44 or 45 wherein at least part of the second, smaller bore of (b) is drilled between said two drilling operations.

47. (new) A method for forming a diagonal bore in a torque-transmitting tool comprising a longitudinal axis and first and second surfaces on different sides of the longitudinal axis, said method comprising:

(a) drilling a first bore in the tool from the first surface along a first drilling axis, said first drilling axis intersecting the first surface at a first oblique angle; and

(b) drilling a second, smaller bore in the tool from the first surface along the first drilling axis, said second bore forming with the first bore a step within the tool, said second bore passing through the second surface at a second oblique angle; wherein (b) comprises drilling the second, smaller bore in two drilling operations.

48. (new) The method of Claim 44 wherein (b) comprises drilling the second smaller bore with two separate drills in said two drilling operations.

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. In addition, the specification was amended to include an unintentionally delayed reference required under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2)(i). This information has already been recognized by the Office as shown by its inclusion in the Parent Continuity Data in the Office's Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, a printout of which is enclosed. Thus, in accordance with MPEP 201.11(III)(D), Applicants submit that no petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a) or surcharge under 37 CFR § 1.17(t) is required to correct this priority claim. However, should any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to a deposit account, as authorized in the Transmittal accompanying this Response.

Claims 1-36 are canceled without prejudice to their continued prosecution in a continuation and/or divisional application.

New claims 40-48, respectively, correspond to cancelled dependent claims 13, 26, 29-30, and 32-36, which were identified in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter.

No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Response, claims 37-48 are present and active in the application.